

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Alfred S. Despres III et al.
Serial No.: 09/909,929
Filing Date: 07/20/2001
Title: MODULAR CONNECTION FOR ORTHOPEDIC
COMPONENT
Group Art Unit: 3732
Examiner: Pedro Philogene
Attorney's Docket No.: HAYES-2

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please replace the current reference to related applications with the following new reference:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Applications

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/909,929, filed 07/20/2001 by Alfred S. Despres III et al. for MODULAR CONNECTION FOR ORTHOPEDIC COMPONENT, which in turn claims benefit of prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/219,955, filed 07/20/00 by Alfred S. Despres III et al. for MODULAR ORTHOPEDIC CONNECTION (Attorney's Docket No. HAYES-1 PROV); and prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/219,963, filed 07/20/00 by Alfred S. Despres III et al. for FORCE COUPLE CONNECTION (Attorney's Docket No. HAYES-2 PROV). --

HAYES-2 CON